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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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Price of groceries drops in US
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Making sense of the world



THE WEEK

Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

GROWING UP

A beloved novel by Judy Blume becomes a major movie p20



A scene from
Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret.



This week's big news

MAJOR NATION

Ukraine is the second largest country in Europe and has a population of more than 43 million people.



Lights coming on at night in Kyiv, Ukraine

Olena Zelenska honored



Ukraine's first lady, Olena Zelenska, is on *Time* magazine's list of the 100 Most Influential People of 2023. The wife of President Volodymyr Zelensky has fought for children's rights during Russia's war against Ukraine. *Time* has published the list annually since 2004. This year it includes leaders, artists, innovators, and more.

Ukraine survives long winter

Ukrainians are welcoming spring after surviving a long winter of Russian attacks on the nation's power grid. Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022 in an attempt to take over the nation.

What happened?

In October, Russia began a campaign to cut off power across Ukraine, dropping missiles that damaged or destroyed power stations and other utilities. During the coldest, darkest months of winter, millions of Ukrainians were often without light, water, heat, or internet access, and many relied on backup generators. Ukraine has now made great progress in repairing its power grid, and basic amenities are back. People in Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, are riding electric scooters, traveling to work on the electric tram, and going to theaters to watch movies. Morale is generally high for Ukrainians who endured a difficult winter and are now seeing some parts of daily life returning to normal.

What was Russia's goal?

Russian president Vladimir Putin hoped that a winter without light or heat would destroy Ukraine's will to fight. Ukraine gets 50% of its electricity from nuclear power and the rest

from coal, gas, or renewable energy such as solar. It also draws power from Europe. In November, Russia knocked out all of Ukraine's nuclear power plants and access to power from Europe. Russia hit 112 different targets with 255 missiles, according to Ukrainian officials. They fired hundreds more that were deflected by Ukrainian troops. In total, Russia destroyed about 40% of Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

How did Ukraine survive?

Ukraine kept its power grid intact in several ways. The nation blocked attacks using air defense systems and supplies provided by the US and the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance (NATO, a military alliance of 31 countries).

Ukraine determined when to expect Russian air strikes, which gave engineers and utility workers a chance to protect facilities from major damage. They also learned how to rebuild damaged facilities as quickly as possible. Many utility employees put their lives at risk to

work through long days and nights, in one case finishing repairs in 40 days that were expected to take 260. Ukrainian officials said dozens of utility workers were killed and hundreds more were injured during these efforts.



Volodymyr Zelensky

How did leaders react?

Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky said winter "was very difficult, and every Ukrainian without exaggeration felt this difficulty. But we still managed to provide Ukraine with energy and heat." Putin acknowledged that Russia is facing "serious challenges" in the war. Leaders of countries including the US, Canada, Germany, Japan, and the UK committed \$115 billion in financial support to Ukraine, while the US delivered \$350 million of military aid in March. Since the war began, the US has provided more than \$100 billion in assistance. Canada provided military supplies and a loan of \$1.78 billion to help Ukraine rebuild its power grid and make other key repairs. The Netherlands is setting aside more than \$100 million to help Ukraine prepare for next winter.

What will happen next?

A recent survey showed that 97% of Ukrainians believe they will prevail over Russia. Many military experts predicted that Ukraine's forces will launch an attack against Russia this spring, and Russia is expected to fight back. Crews will continue to repair the nation's power structure and reinforce it ahead of next winter. The US will soon deliver a Patriot air defense system that can block enemy air strikes and protect the power grid.



New year festival held in Thailand

On April 13, thousands of people in Thailand marked the Buddhist new year with the Songkran Water Festival, one of the nation's most important celebrations. The festival had not been held since 2020, due to the pandemic.

Songkran lasts about three days and has roots in Buddhism, a religion widely practiced in Thailand. Water is a Buddhist symbol of renewal, and during Songkran it represents washing away the past year. The festival also honors the end of the dry season and focuses on moving forward.

One ancient tradition is for younger people to sprinkle water on the hands of elders to get their blessings for the coming year. Over time, this evolved into crowds gathering in the streets to splash each other with anything from water shooters to tubs of ice water.

The largest Songkran celebrations are held in big cities such as Bangkok, Thailand's capital. During a water fight in that city this year, a festival participant told *The Guardian*, "It's just so fun. It brings out every aspect of Thailand."



Songkran festivities



Testing the new vaccine in Africa

DID YOU KNOW?
Ghana is a country in West Africa known for growing cacao beans, the source of chocolate.

Ghana approves malaria vaccine

On April 13, Ghana became the first nation in the world to approve a new malaria vaccine that has been described as a "world changer." A vaccine is a medication given to a person to prevent a disease. Malaria is caused by tiny parasites (living things that live in or on other living things and get nourishment from them). It typically spreads to a person through the bite of an infected mosquito. More than 600,000 people die from malaria every year. Young children are at the highest risk, and most cases occur in Africa.

Scientists have been working on malaria vaccines for more than 30 years. Last year, a vaccine called Mosquirix was approved by the World Health Organization (WHO, the international public health agency). However,

Mosquirix was found to be effective only 30% of the time, and the company that makes it has not been able to produce enough doses.

The new vaccine, called R21, was developed at the University of Oxford in the UK and is given in a series of four shots. It's currently being tested in 4,800 children in four countries, after a smaller study showed that it was up to 80% effective.

It isn't clear when children will start getting the shots. R21 is still under review by the WHO, whose approval could encourage other countries to use it. The Serum Institute of India, which manufactures R21, is preparing to make up to 200 million doses a year. The company's leader, Adar Poonawalla, said this marks a "significant milestone in our efforts to combat malaria around the world."



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

TWO GREAT TASTES IN ONE

The famous H&H Bagels shop in New York City has turned the classic bagel and cream cheese combo into something new: a stuffed bagel. Instead of spreading the topping on each half of a sliced bagel, H&H stuffs it with cream cheese.



A PAIR OF RARE BIRTHS

Two extremely rare white bison calves were born a few days apart at a bison sanctuary in Utah. White bison are sacred to Native Americans in the region, and their birth "brings a sense of hope and is a sign that good times are about to happen," said the National Park Service. The first calf was named Sakari, and Kota was the second.



A GRAND ADVENTURE

Eleanor Hamby and Sandra Hazelip, 81-year-old best friends from Texas, took an epic journey around the world in 80 days. Stops included Antarctica, Lapland, Egypt, Easter Island, Zanzibar, Nepal, and Australia. The best part of their trip, they said, was "the joy and emotion on the faces of the people" they met along the way.





National news



Federal fact finders



The Bureau of Labor Statistics, created in 1884, is the US agency that collects, analyzes, and shares data related to the nation's economy and jobs. Government officials use the information to create policies that will help the country. Private businesses use the data to help them make financial decisions.

US agency reports drop in food prices

The cost of groceries decreased in March, falling for the first time since September 2020, according to new data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS, a US agency). The drop was a bright spot in the US government's aim to lower inflation (rise in the cost of goods and services).

What food prices changed?

The cost of foods in many categories dropped, and some had steeper declines than others. The price of eggs decreased by 11%, fruits and vegetables dropped by 1.3%, and dairy products dipped by 0.1%. Other foods cost slightly more, such as cereals and bakery products, which rose by 0.6%. Eating at restaurants continued to cost more, with prices increasing 0.6%.

What else happened?

The rise in inflation decreased in March for the ninth straight month, and prices of goods and services increased at their slowest pace in nearly two years. The cost of gasoline was 17.4% lower in March than in 2022, and energy prices (such as electricity) dropped 6.4%. But some prices remained stubbornly high or continued to rise. For example, the cost of rent increased by 8.8% and airfare prices were up 17.7%.

How did people react?

Experts welcomed the decrease in food prices because groceries are a necessity. "It's something you don't have a choice on," Diane Swonk, an economist, told *The New York Times*. When buying

food requires a larger portion of a household budget, she said, it can be harder for people to feed their families. Other cost decreases, such as for gasoline, were met with hope that prices would continue to remain stable or drop. Some experts expressed concern that certain prices continued to increase, which indicates that the nation's problem with inflation isn't resolved.

What will happen next?

The Federal Reserve (the US central banking system, known as the Fed) will continue to try to stabilize prices. In the past year, it has taken steps to slow the rate of rising costs. It said it will monitor the success of these steps in the months ahead and make adjustments if necessary.



WORD OF THE WEEK

MALARIA

Before people understood that the disease malaria was carried by mosquitoes, they believed it was caused by unhealthy air found in marshy areas, particularly near Rome, Italy. This explains the origin of the name, which comes from the Italian *mal'aria* and means "bad air."

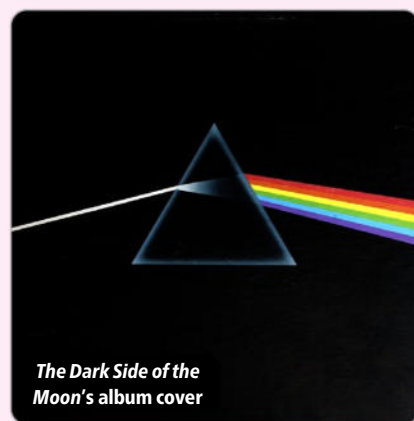


THE WEEK IN HISTORY

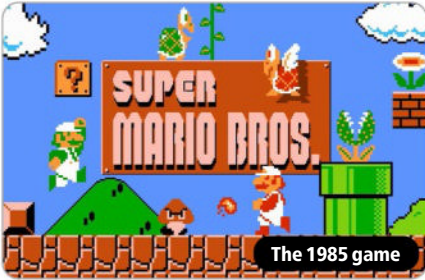
April 28, 1973

Rock album begins historic run

On April 28, 1973, the album *The Dark Side of the Moon* by the British rock band Pink Floyd hit number one on the Billboard 200 charts (then called Billboard Top LPs & Tape). It spent the next 14 years in various spots on the charts, for a record of 724 weeks, before dropping off in April 1988. Since then, it has returned to the charts, racking up more than 950 weeks—more than any other album.



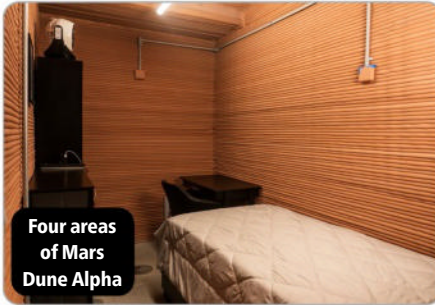
The Dark Side of the Moon's album cover



The 1985 game

Library adds historic recordings

The Library of Congress has made 25 new additions to its National Recording Register—a list of sound recordings that are significant to the US. A video game soundtrack, the original theme music for Super Mario Bros., was added for the first time. Queen Latifah's album *All Hail the Queen* was included, making her the first female rapper on the list. A reading by scientist Carl Sagan was also added. To hear the additions, go to tinyurl.com/TWJUS-sounds.



Four areas of Mars Dune Alpha



Google updates maps for parks

Google has updated its maps to make it easier to explore the country's 424 national park sites. The updates include marking entrances to the parks, posting more photos and videos of top attractions, and providing details about popular hikes. The maps can be downloaded offline so they can be used in remote park areas without cell service. Google said it plans to add parks around the world next.



Part of the super bloom

Super bloom occurs in California

Vast areas of California have blossomed into a "super bloom," which is when colorful wildflowers, such as poppies and evening primrose, bloom at the same time. The spectacle is so large and bright that it is visible from space, experts said. The last time the state saw a super bloom was in 2019. Super blooms are more likely to occur after a rainy winter, which California had this year.

Habitat to simulate life on Mars

NASA, the US space agency, has unveiled a specially designed habitat to simulate living conditions on Mars. The habitat is intended to help NASA learn about the challenges astronauts would face while living on Mars with limited resources. The agency said it hopes to send humans to Mars as early as the 2030s.

The habitat, called Mars Dune Alpha, is based at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Starting this summer, four volunteer crew members will live in the habitat for one year. The first volunteers have not yet been selected, but NASA says it will look for candidates with strong backgrounds in fields such as science and technology—the same qualifications it looks for in its astronauts.

NASA created the habitat using 3D-printing technology, which it may someday use to build structures on Mars or the Moon. The structure is 1,700 square feet in size and includes private sleeping areas for the crew, workstations, and a recreational lounge. There are also indoor greenhouses so the volunteers can grow their

own food. The crew will have a 22-minute delay when communicating with people outside the habitat because the astronauts on Mars are expected to have a similar delay when communicating with Earth.

Mars Dune Alpha also has an outdoor area covered in red sand to mimic the surface of Mars. Volunteers will put on fake space suits and go

through a mock airlock to reach the outdoor area. There they will conduct test missions, such as performing maintenance on the site structure. The outdoor area also features two treadmills the crew can use to pretend

they're walking on Mars. The machines simulate the weaker gravity on the red planet.

Throughout the experiment, NASA will monitor the volunteers for signs of stress and conduct surveys on their mental state. The agency recognizes that the experience will be challenging for the crew members. "Not only will they have to get along well, but they'll also have to perform well together," NASA official Suzanne Bell told *The Guardian*.

PLANET PULL
The force of gravity on Mars is about 38% as strong as gravity is on Earth.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Moose feasts on lobby plants in Alaska hospital building" *AP*





Around the world



A wild pig



Canada

"Super pigs" heading south

Wild pigs that are a nationwide pest in Canada are heading toward the US. The so-called "super pigs," a cross between domestic pigs and wild boars, were once contained to farms but were let go or escaped 30 years ago. They have spread in Canada, destroying plants and harming native animals. The pigs are close to crossing the US border, and experts worry they will cause damage in northern states.



The stone scoreboard



Chichén Itzá, Mexico

Ancient disc believed to be scoreboard

A carved stone disc thought to be a scoreboard has been found in the ruins of Chichén Itzá, an ancient Mayan city. The Maya civilization existed in Mexico and Central America from about 2000 BCE until 900 CE. The circular stone is believed to be more than 1,000 years old. It displays hieroglyphic writing and shows two figures playing pelota, a team game involving a hard rubber ball.



One of the murals



Peru

Murals discovered in ceremonial hall

Archaeologists (scientists who study objects left by people long ago) in Peru discovered two murals (paintings on walls) that date back about 1,400 years. The paintings, which depict two-faced men in golden headdresses, were found on a pillar within a ceremonial hall. It was part of the Moche civilization that flourished on the country's northern coast.



United Kingdom

Activists protest horse race

Animal rights activists interrupted the start of the UK's most popular horse race, the Grand National, on April 15. Police arrested 118 people after they stormed the field and caused a 14-minute delay. Three horses died during this year's event. Activists said the racehorses are being exploited for entertainment "and it has to stop."



A protester at the race



Sudan

Fighting erupts

Armed forces loyal to two different rival generals have begun fighting each other in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, and other parts of the country. The two generals, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, lead the country's military government but have disagreed over plans to make a transition to civilian rule. When *The Week Junior* went to press, at least 185 people had been killed and more than 1,800 were wounded.

Unrest in Khartoum



GETTY IMAGES (4); DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE; ALAMY; TWITTER 7@FLUPE_NYUS; REUTERS (2); SHUTTERSTOCK

Around the world



Nuclear power plants



Germany Nuclear plants shut down

Germany is closing its last three nuclear power plants as part of the nation's plan to move toward renewable energy, such as wind and solar power. The move was criticized by people who said the closing of the plants means that, for now, Germany will have to use more harmful fossil fuels, like coal and gas, which will lead to higher energy prices.



Dancing flamenco



Andalusia, Spain Law passed to protect flamenco

The Flamenco Law has been passed by the government of Andalusia, a region of Spain. Flamenco is an art form that involves poetry, singing, guitar playing, and dancing with hand clapping and lightning-fast footwork. It has been part of Spanish culture for hundreds of years. The goal of the new law is to protect flamenco from being changed and to make it part of the region's school curriculum.



Portofino



Portofino, Italy New fines for taking selfies

Visitors to Portofino can now be fined (charged money as a punishment) for pausing too long in two new red zones. Tourists who stop to take selfies in the picturesque town have caused pedestrian traffic to back up in the streets, resulting in unsafe crowding. The new \$302 fine is expected to help address the problem. Portofino's mayor, Matteo Viavaca, told *The Times of London* the new rules will "allow everyone to enjoy our beauty."



One of the freed men



Yemen Hundreds of prisoners released

More than 800 prisoners were freed and reunited with their families in time for the Muslim celebration of Eid al-Fitr. The prisoners had been held by both sides in Yemen's civil war (a war between different groups in the same country). The government and Yemeni rebels have been fighting for nearly nine years. The release of prisoners has boosted hopes for the war's end.



Mozambique Queen mourned

The nation of Mozambique is mourning the Queen of Niassa, Abibi Achivangila, who died on April 16 at age 96. She was the fifth in a line of female monarchs dating back hundreds of years. The first queen came to power after rescuing a group of people her husband had sold into slavery. A new queen will now be chosen by the 83 families in her village. They said they will look for someone who is caring, well liked, humble, and a good listener.



The Queen of Niassa



The big debate

Should plant-based drinks be called milk?

Some people say it's all the same, whether it came from a cow or a cashew.

What you need to know

- In 2022, Americans spent more than \$15.7 billion on cow's milk and more than \$2.4 billion on plant-based milk.
- Plant-based drinks are made from sources such as nuts, grains, soy, oats, coconuts, and sunflower seeds.
- In February, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA, the US agency that oversees food safety) said plant-based drinks can be called milk. The agency also recommended that plant-based milks have nutrition labels comparing them to cow's milk.



These days, you can make a smoothie with soy milk, dunk a cookie in almond milk, or pour oat milk over your cereal. Plant-based drinks, also known as non-dairy drinks, have gone mainstream. But the US dairy industry, which produces cow's milk, argues that these drinks shouldn't be called "milk" because they don't have the same taste or nutritional value as cow's milk. Plant-based drink makers say people use their products just like they use cow's milk, so they're essentially the same. And, they say, the two types of drinks can have similar health benefits. What do you think? Should plant-based beverages be called milk?

Yes—people are smart consumers

Plant-based drinks are nothing new, and they've been called "milk" for a long time. There's been soy milk in China and coconut milk in Southeast Asia and Africa for centuries. The dairy industry wants consumers to think plant-based drinks aren't as healthy as cow's milk. They might be different, but they can be equally or even more nutritious. In fact, many people buy plant-based milk because of health issues like food allergies or high cholesterol. They're informed shoppers who know what they're consuming and won't be confused by the word "milk" on the label. People know "peanut butter" doesn't contain actual butter, right?

No—why complicate things?

Calling plant-based beverages "milk" is misleading because they don't taste like cow's milk and don't always contain the same levels of calcium or vitamins. Consumers might think they're getting the same nutrition as they do with cow's milk. And it would create confusion if manufacturers had to change their packaging to include a nutrition comparison to cow's milk. Why add extra information when it's easier to call it by another name—the same way "margarine" is different from "butter"? There are new plant-based products coming out all the time. It's time to start setting some clear rules about what's what.

YES

Three reasons why plant-based drinks should be called milk

- 1 Plant-based drinks have been around and called "milk" for centuries.
- 2 Plant-based beverages are not necessarily unhealthy. They can be just as nutritious as cow's milk.
- 3 Consumers are smart and know the difference between dairy and non-dairy milks. The word "milk" won't confuse them.

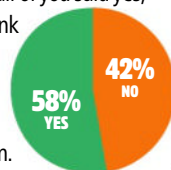
NO

Three reasons why plant-based drinks should not be called milk

- 1 Plant-based milks are different from cow's milk, but people might not realize that.
- 2 Why go to the trouble of adding more nutrition information to labels? Just call plant-based drinks by another name.
- 3 So many plant-based foods exist now. There should be clear rules about what they can—and can't—be called.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if chatbots should be banned in schools. More than half of you said yes, but many think the talkative tech has a place in the classroom.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think plant-based drinks should be called milk or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



A love for the news

Reporter Maya Eaglin is engaging young people with digital journalism.

In a short amount of time, Maya Eaglin has come a long way in her journalism career. She started out by reading the morning announcements in her elementary school, and now, at age 25, she is a reporter for NBC News and a co-host of NBC's youth-focused news program called *Stay Tuned*.

Eaglin's passion for news was inspired by her mom, who worked at a local television station in the Washington, DC, area, which is where Eaglin grew up. Eaglin attended Elon University in North Carolina, where she was the director of the college's news network. She interned with National Public Radio (NPR) and graduated with a degree in journalism.

In 2019, Eaglin joined NBC as a news associate specializing in digital media. Eaglin told *The Week Junior* that she likes

the way digital media can deliver high-quality news that anyone can access. "It allows people to opt in and opt out whenever they want," she said.

Stay Tuned—which is geared toward Generation Z (people born from about

1997 to 2012)—airs on the social media platform Snapchat and has 10 million subscribers. Eaglin delivers short breaking-news reports in each episode and said she's proud to be a reporter for

her generation, which she describes as being skeptical of tradition. "This can lead to interesting and important conversations," she said.

In her career, Eaglin tries to learn from her experiences, including her mistakes. It's not a question of *if* you're going to make mistakes but *when*, she said. "But you can't get to your goals without them."



Maya Eaglin

SETTING TRENDS

In 2017, *Stay Tuned* became the first news show to launch on Snapchat's Discovery platform.

Artist on the cover

At the age of 106, legendary tattoo artist Apo Whang-Od appeared on the April cover of *Vogue Philippines*—the oldest person ever shown on a *Vogue* cover. Whang-Od belongs to the Kalinga tribe, which is Indigenous (people who were first to inhabit a place) to the Philippines, and practices a Filipino tattooing style called Batok. She draws intricate designs using a bamboo stick and charcoal, and people travel long distances to watch her create her art. She told *Vogue* she will practice it "for as long as my eyes can see."



Apo Whang-Od



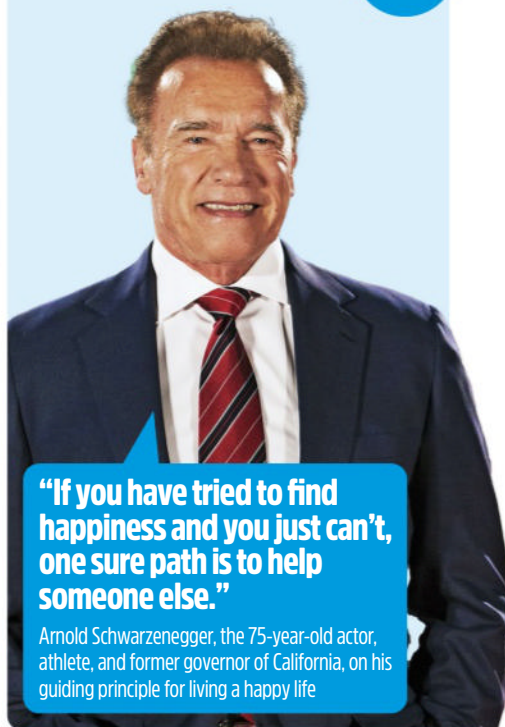
Blake Johnston

Surfer sets record

Australian surfer Blake Johnston has broken the record for the world's longest surf session, at 40 hours. At Cronulla Beach in Sydney, Australia, he braved pitch-black seas and swarms of jellyfish to ride more than 700 waves and beat the previous record by 10 hours. Johnston used his attempt to break the record to raise more than \$220,000 for a nonprofit organization that provides young people with mental health support, community sports, education, and more. This wasn't Johnston's first extreme adventure. In 2020, he ran 62 miles along the Sydney coast, mostly in bare feet.

OVERHEARD

“ ”



"If you have tried to find happiness and you just can't, one sure path is to help someone else."

Arnold Schwarzenegger, the 75-year-old actor, athlete, and former governor of California, on his guiding principle for living a happy life



DID YOU KNOW?

Bumblebees usually nest in groups of 50 to 400, while a honeybee hive can contain 50,000 bees.



A bumblebee

Learning from older bees

Honeybee workers guide one another to a food source by doing a “waggle dance” that shows the direction and distance to fly. Scientists discovered that young bees learn the moves by touching their antennae to the dancing bodies of older bees. If a bee misses this opportunity, its dances will have more mistakes.



A honeybee

A culture among bumblebees

Have you heard the latest buzz? Bumblebees have. According to a new study, trends can pass through a bumblebee colony as bees watch and copy one another’s behavior. This means the bees have a culture, which is a set of shared behaviors animals learn from one another. People once thought humans were the only species to develop cultures, but chimpanzees and some birds have also been found to have this ability.

A research team from the UK set up puzzle boxes that offered a sweet-tasting reward when opened. “Demonstrator” bees were taught to open the boxes by pushing a red tab clockwise

or a blue tab counterclockwise. Some bees saw the demonstrator bees open the boxes, while other bees were not allowed to watch before trying to open the boxes themselves.

The group of bees that had watched a demonstrator were able to open the puzzle boxes about 28 times a day, while the other group opened them only once a day. The observer bees almost always used the same method as the demonstrators did. For example, those who

watched a bee open a box using the red tab almost always pushed the red tab as well.

“Some of them would play around with the box and find the alternative solution, but they

still would revert really strongly back to the demonstrator’s preferred behavior,” Alice Bridges, the lead author of the study, told *The Washington Post*. She said the bees were developing “a local trend.”

Even when the researchers allowed groups of bees to see both methods demonstrated, each group soon developed its own trend. A technique was passed along as new bees learned from more experienced bees. After several days, one colony came to prefer the “blue method,” while the other almost always chose the “red method.”

“The fact that bees can watch and learn, and then make a habit of that behavior, adds to the ever-growing body of evidence that they are far smarter creatures than a lot of people give them credit for,” said study co-author Lars Chittka.



Bees pushing the blue tab



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Big Thicket National Preserve, Texas

This nature preserve, established in 1974, was one of the country’s first two national preserves. It protects nine different kinds of habitats, including longleaf pine forests and bayous lined with cypress trees. It’s no surprise that this diverse area attracts a variety of animal life, including the American alligator, wild boar, red-tailed hawk, mottled duck, and ladyfish. Four of the five types of carnivorous plants in North America—pale pitcher plants, bladderworts, sundews, and butterworts—inhabit the park. The plants feed on insects after luring them with scents and nectar.



This pale pitcher plant attracted a wasp.



FUN FACT

The extra claw that sits above some dogs' paws is called a dewclaw.

A dog might prefer to shake with its left paw.



Dogs have a preferred paw

It's common knowledge that most humans are either right- or left-handed, and it now seems that our canine friends might also possess a preferred paw. Researchers in the UK recently conducted the largest study ever done on paw preferences in dogs.

The research team looked at data that had been collected from 17,901 dogs during the BBC news network's "Test Your Pet" survey. In the study, owners placed a treat inside a tube so their pet had to reach inside to retrieve it. Each owner conducted the test

three times and recorded which paw their dog used most often to get the treat.

The researchers found that about 74% of the dogs showed a paw preference, while 26% used both paws equally. Of the dogs that preferred one paw over the other, 58.3% used their right front paw and 41.7% used their left front paw.

As is the case with humans, female dogs were more likely to be right-pawed than males. Dogs are more likely than humans to prefer the left, however, since only about 10% of people are left-handed.

Animal of the week

Eurasian woodcock



This wading bird with a bobbing walk spends most of its day under cover in woodlands. Its dull brown, patterned feathers are superb at disguising the bird from predators as it wanders around the forest floor.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 10 years
- **HABITAT:** Woodlands and fields in Europe
- **SIZE:** About 13 inches long
- **DIET:** Insects, small snails, spiders, and worms
- **FUN FACT:** The underside of a woodcock's tail has the whitest feathers of any bird.



Good week / Bad week



Pookila mouse

In the first year of a breeding program, 22 Pookila mouse pups have been born at Melbourne Zoo and Moonlit Sanctuary in Australia. These endangered mice, which are about as big as a human thumb, live only in Australia.



Sea lions in Peru

An outbreak of bird flu has killed about 3% of the sea lion population in the South American country of Peru. The disease, which was first detected in birds, has spread to many other species, including fur seals.



"Do you know why the gills of axolotls are on the outside of their heads?" Evie, 9, New York

Becky Heidt
Aquarist I,
New England Aquarium

Similarly to frogs, axolotls are born with external gills and no arms or legs. But unlike frogs, as they develop, their gills remain on the outside of their body. It isn't known why this happens, but it may give them a larger space to take in oxygen. Axolotls can also breathe through their skin!



An axolotl

Do you have a question for a zookeeper? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about the New England Aquarium at neaq.org.



A historic island of

Millions seeking a better life came to the US through Ellis Island.

In New York Harbor stands a small island once known as the Gateway to the New World. Now a historical site, Ellis Island has many stories to tell.



An early image of Ellis Island

How it began

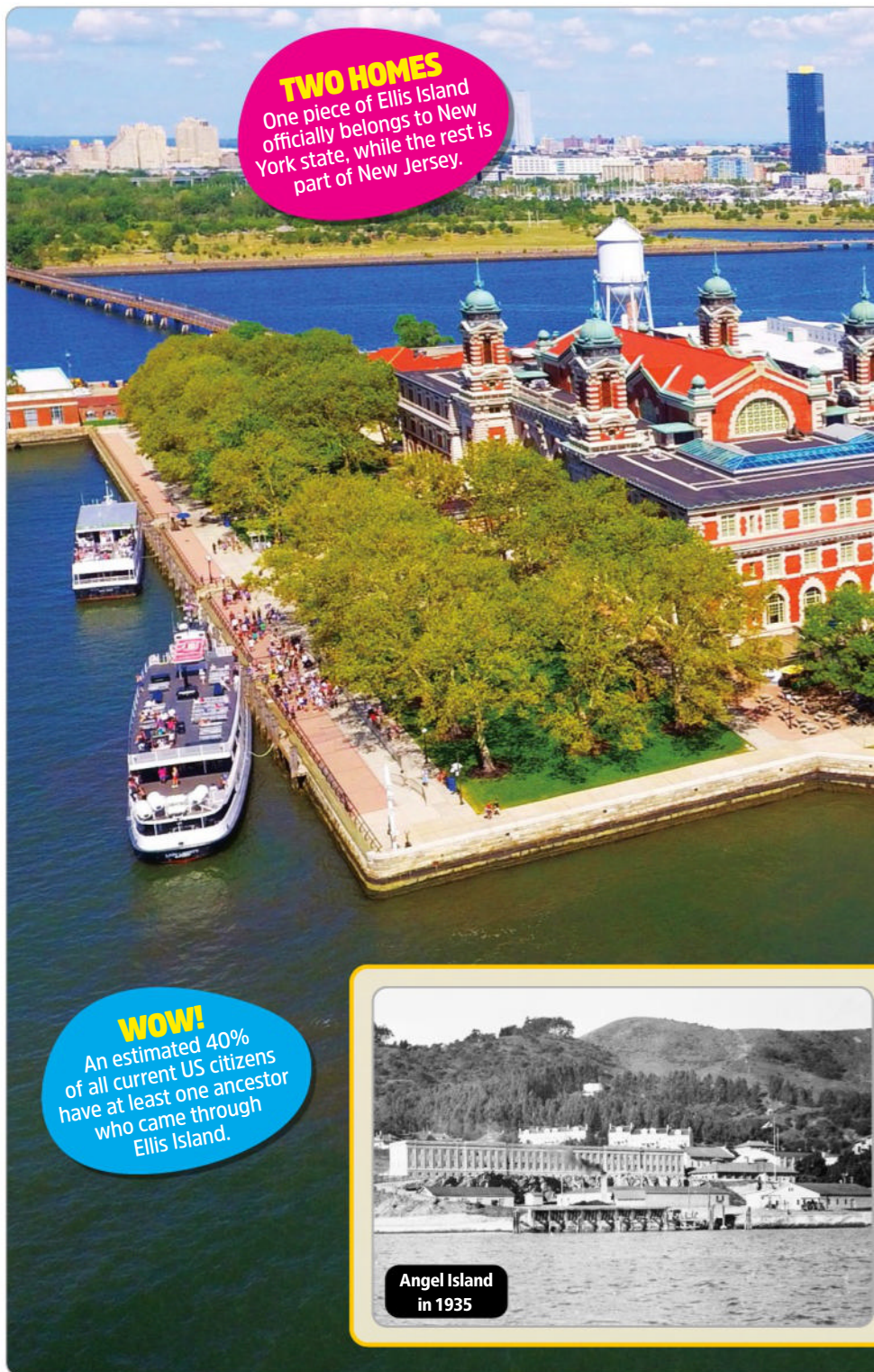
Native Americans of the Mohegan tribe called the island "Kioshk" ("Gull Island"). In the 1600s, European settlers began calling it "Little Oyster Island" for the oyster beds surrounding it. In 1774, Samuel Ellis of New York City bought the island and built a tavern on it. Later, it became a fort for soldiers. By the late 1800s, a great change was taking place in US immigration. More people came from Europe to escape drought, famine, and war. In the past, states had processed immigrants. But now the US government took over. On January 1, 1892, the US Immigration Station on Ellis Island opened its doors.



A family arrives from England.

Arriving at Ellis Island

Annie Moore, a 17-year-old from Ireland, was the first person to be processed at the new immigration station. She and most others arrived on steamships after a journey of eight to 14 days across the Atlantic. As passengers arrived, immigration officials checked them for illnesses and eligibility to enter the US. Most people passed through in a matter of hours and then boarded a ferry to New York City or to a train station in New Jersey. Others were held on the island while they recovered from illness or waited for further inspections. About 2% were rejected and sent back to Europe.



TWO HOMES
One piece of Ellis Island officially belongs to New York state, while the rest is part of New Jersey.

WOW!
An estimated 40% of all current US citizens have at least one ancestor who came through Ellis Island.



Angel Island in 1935



hopes and dreams



DID YOU KNOW?
The Ellis Island immigration station processed more than 12 million people arriving in the US.

Ellis Island today

Angel Island in San Francisco Bay

On America's other coast, near San Francisco, California, the Angel Island Immigration Station served as a processing and detention center for approximately 500,000 immigrants between 1910 and 1940. Most of them arrived from Asia, across the Pacific Ocean, with the majority coming from China. Unlike at Ellis Island, officials at Angel Island sought to reject new arrivals. Many people were held on Angel Island for days, months, or years as they awaited approval to enter the US. The immigration station was relocated in 1940, and today the island is a state park and museum.



Young Japanese immigrants in 1920



The Statue of Liberty

Changing times

Ellis Island was the nation's busiest immigration station for about 30 years. At its peak, from 1900 to 1914, an average of 1,900 people passed through every day. That changed when the US government enacted the Emergency Quota Act of 1921 and the National Origins Act of 1924, which limited the number of people allowed into the US and the countries they could come from. The island served as a place to detain people until 1954, when it stopped operating. To ensure its history would be preserved, President Lyndon Johnson proclaimed Ellis Island a part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument in 1965. From 1986 to 1990, a total of \$156 million was spent to restore the island.



The museum

Visiting history

Today, the story of Ellis Island lives on at the Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration, which opened in 1990 inside the restored main building. Visitors take a ferry, which also stops at the Statue of Liberty on nearby Liberty Island. The Registry Room great hall looks as it did in 1924, and exhibits are filled with photos and information about the many people who passed through the station on their way to a new life in America. At the Family History Center, people can search for records of their relatives. The National Park Service, which oversees the island, has posted videos for children interested in learning more. You can see them at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Ellis.



Dinosaur's neck was nearly 50 feet long

A dinosaur species that lived more than 160 million years ago in what is now China had a neck that was about 49.5 feet long, according to a new study. It was more than six times the length of a modern giraffe's neck and about 10 feet longer than a standard school bus.

The species, *Mamenchisaurus sinocanadorum*, was a sauropod, a type of dinosaur known for its large body and long neck and tail. Sauropods are the largest land animals ever known to exist. Their long neck helped them gather food while staying in one spot. It may have also given them more surface area on their body, which helped them release heat and stay cool.

Mamenchisaurus was discovered when fossils (impressions or traces of ancient plants and animals preserved in rock) from the creature's skeleton were found in 1987. Because only a few pieces of the skeleton—bits of its skull, most of its lower jaw, and vertebrae (bones of the spine)—were found, experts couldn't determine its exact size. It is rare for extensive fossils of large dinosaurs to be found because

their size makes it unlikely for them to be fully buried and preserved.

To estimate *Mamenchisaurus*'s neck length, a group of researchers led by Andrew J. Moore from Stony Brook University in New York identified its closest relatives. They compared the fossil remains of *Mamenchisaurus* to those of its relatives, such as the *Xinjiangtitan shanshanensis*. A complete neck fossil from *Xinjiangtitan*, found in 2013, was nearly 44 feet long—the longest complete neck fossil on record.



Xinjiangtitan shanshanensis

The team concluded that *Mamenchisaurus* had 18 vertebrae in its neck. To determine how the dinosaur was able to support such a large neck, Moore and his team scanned its vertebrae. Its bones consisted mostly of air, keeping it lightweight. To protect its neck from injury, the *Mamenchisaurus* had rod-like ribs covering both sides of its neck.

"*Mamenchisaurids* are important because they pushed the limits on how long a neck can be and were the first lineage of sauropods to do so," Moore said. "*Mamenchisaurus sinocanadorum* might be a record-holder—at least until something longer is discovered."

Debating Dunk's size and shape



A *Dunkleosteus* skull

During the Devonian Period, about 360 million years ago, a fish called *Dunkleosteus* was one of the top predators in the water. Scientists have thought that *Dunkleosteus* was built like a shark, stretching as long as a school bus. However, new research by Russell Engelman of Case Western Reserve University, in Ohio, suggests the fish was 13 feet long at most and shaped like a tuna. "Dunk," as the fish is known, was chunky and compact.

Engelman says this build would have made Dunk an even more dangerous predator, enabling it to move fast in open water. However, other scientists caution that it is impossible as of now to be certain what this fish's body really looked like.



Squishy spots on Venus release heat

A new study has solved a mystery about the surface of Venus—which turns out to be kind of squishy. Venus and Earth are both rocky planets that are about the same size, and Venus is our closest neighbor in the solar system. The two planets seem similar, but they're very different. For example, the temperature of Venus's surface is a scorching 900° F.

Another difference is the planet's outer crust, called the lithosphere. Earth's lithosphere is a patchwork of tectonic plates (gigantic slabs of rock that move slowly). This movement lets heat escape from the planet. On Venus, the lithosphere is thought to be one solid piece, and how it releases heat has been a mystery—until now.

A team of scientists from NASA (the US space agency), led by Suzanne

Smrekar, has been studying images of Venus taken by NASA's Magellan spacecraft in the 1990s.

Circles on the planet's surface, called coronae, were originally thought to be craters. Now the scientists think they're volcanic areas, where magma (melted rock) wells up from inside the planet. The team thinks these coronae are clustered where the lithosphere is thin and stretchy. They function as vents that help cool the planet and also change shape.

"We've been locked into this idea that Venus's lithosphere is stagnant and thick, but our view is now evolving," Smrekar said. NASA plans to launch the VERITAS mission by 2027 to see "if Venus has more mysteries in store," Smrekar said.



The surface of Venus



An illustration of one of the circular coronae on Venus

HOT SPOT
Scientists think Venus has more volcanoes than any other planet in the solar system—possibly as many as 1,600.



A sheep grazing at Pompeii

Protecting ancient ruins with sheep

Scientists are using sheep to protect the ancient ruins of Pompeii, a city in Italy that was destroyed by a volcanic eruption in the year 79. Pompeii was buried and preserved under thick layers of pumice stone, hot ash, and debris.

Researchers found Pompeii in the 1500s and have since excavated (dug up) about two thirds of the city. Experts are concerned, however, that the unexplored sections of the city will be damaged by grass and

plants that grow on and through stone walls and structures.

Instead of using pesticides, which could harm the ruins, experts turned to an eco-friendly, cost-effective landscaping method. A flock of 150 sheep are grazing on greenery in a northern section of the city, like a living lawnmower.

The sheep "entered the site with great enthusiasm and got to work straight away," said Gabriel Zuchtriegel, who oversees Pompeii.



Floating bricks made of seaweed



A rendering of Seabricks in use

A system of interlocking bricks made of sea kelp and seaweed can be used to build floating docks, bridges, homes, and platforms. Seabrick, a Canadian company, says its product is inexpensive and better for the environment than building materials like concrete.

The company mixes clay with sea kelp and sargassum, a type of seaweed. The mixture is compressed into bricks that can be snapped together, like Legos. Seabrick says the material also traps gases that harm the planet, like carbon dioxide. The bricks are reusable.

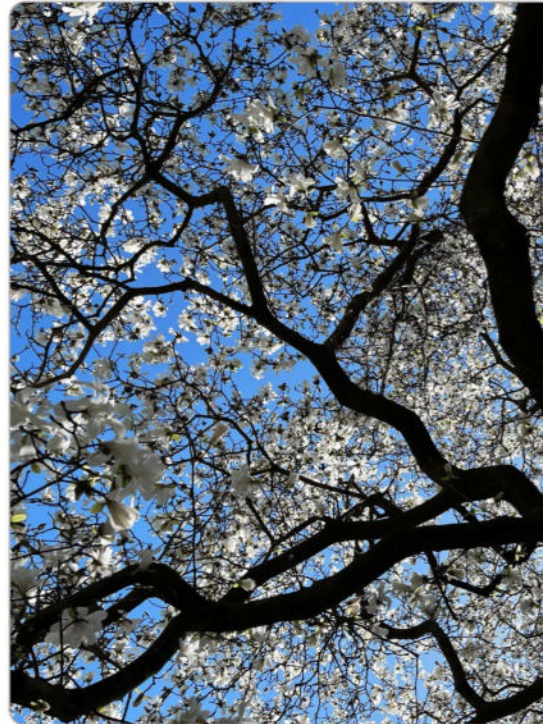


Reader photos of the week



Watercolor vision

Reese, 14, of Ohio shot this image of a boat in a cave in Greece.

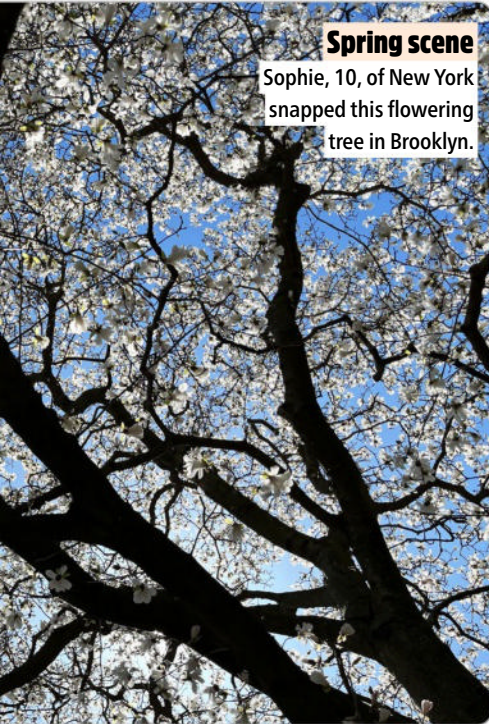


Mellow yellow

This photo of budding blooms was taken by JalyN, 13, of California.



HENRIK: CAROLINE; EVEYIN: JALYN; REESE: SOPHIE



Spring scene

Sophie, 10, of New York snapped this flowering tree in Brooklyn.



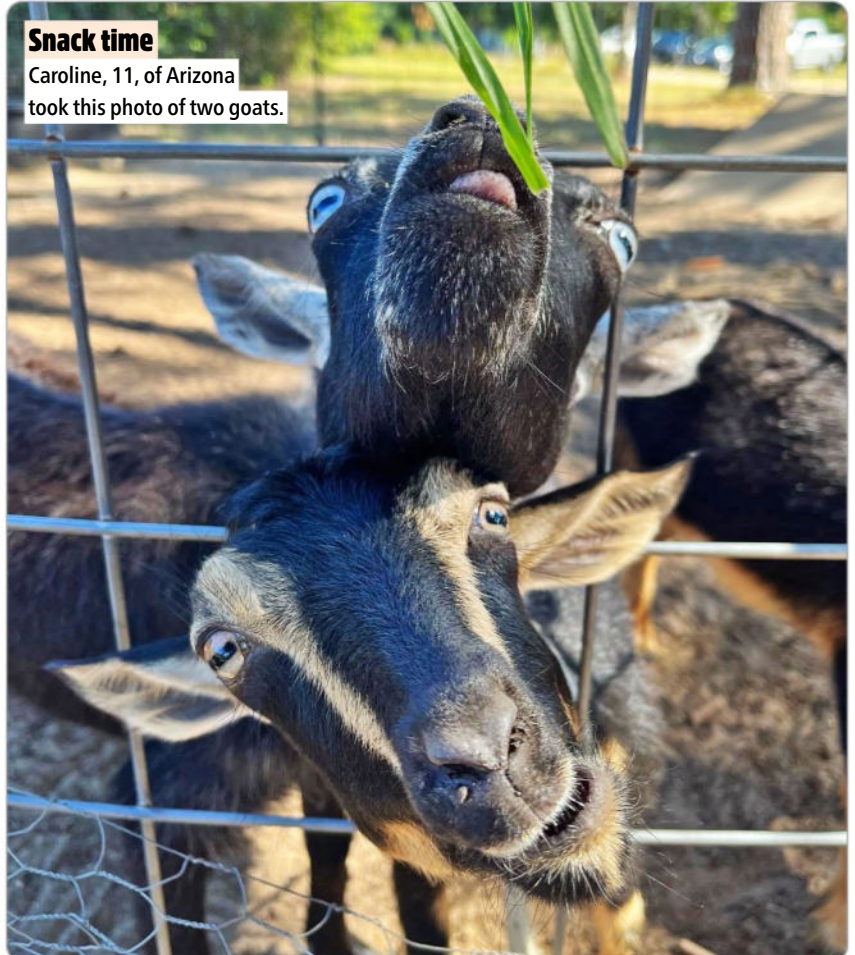
Gorgeous garden

Sunlight streams onto flowers in this picture by Evelyn, 9, of Colorado.



Mirror image

Heinrik, 13, of Minnesota captured a scenic shot while on vacation in Colorado.



Snack time

Caroline, 11, of Arizona took this photo of two goats.



Sports



DID YOU KNOW?

Boston Common, a park in downtown Boston, is considered the oldest public park in the US.

Evans Chebet, left, and Hellen Obiri

Day of remembrance



The city of Boston celebrates One Boston Day every April 15. That was the date of the terrorist attack at the marathon in 2013. The day recognizes people's "resiliency, generosity, and strength" in response to the tragedy. Locals often take part in volunteer activities.

Special day at Boston Marathon

The 127th running of the Boston Marathon took place on April 17. It is the oldest marathon in the nation and one of the six major marathons in the world. The 26.2-mile course starts in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, and ends on Boylston Street in the center of Boston.

There was extra significance to this year's race because it has been 10 years since terrorists set off bombs at the 2013 marathon. Three people watching the race that day were killed, and more than 260 were injured. Many runners this year participated as a way to honor friends and family who were

hurt or died. At 2:49 pm, the time the bombs exploded in 2013, a bell at Boston's Old South Church rang in honor of the tragic event.



Marcel Hug, left, and Susannah Scaroni

Two elite runners from Kenya won the Men's and Women's Open divisions. In the men's race, Evans Chebet of Kenya won his second consecutive Boston Marathon with a time of 2:05:54. Among his competition was fellow Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge, who holds the world record for fastest marathon. Kipchoge, who had never run the Boston race before, placed sixth.

Hellen Obiri won the women's race with a time of 2:21:38. It was the second time in her life

that she had run a marathon. She surged in the final mile and finished 12 seconds ahead of Amane Beriso of Ethiopia.

American Susannah Scaroni and Swiss racer Marcel Hug won the wheelchair divisions. It was Scaroni's first Boston win and Hug's sixth. Hug's time of 1:17:06 was a men's course record.

For the third time, the marathon featured a Para Athletics division for athletes with vision and limb impairments. The winners included Americans Jessica Loomer and Jennifer Herring, who won in their respective visual impairment categories. Fellow American Liz Willis finished first in her lower-limb impairment group. The men from the US who won were Andrew Thorson, a runner with a vision impairment, and Marko Cheseto Lemtukei, who has a lower-limb impairment.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY

The US women's hockey team defeated its rival, Canada, 6-3, to win the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Women's World Championship in Brampton, Canada, on April 16. This is the team's 10th championship title and its first since 2019. US captain Hilary Knight scored three goals in the win, including one to break a 3-3 tie late in the third period. Team USA won silver in the past three world championships.



Bo Bichette of the Toronto Blue Jays

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

On April 14, the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Tampa Bay Rays, 6-3. They ended the Rays' 13-game winning streak, which was the best start to a MLB season in more than 30 years.

FIGURE SKATING

Team USA won the International Skating Union's World Team Trophy on April 15. The event, which takes place every two years, features teams of pairs from the top six countries of the skating season.



WOW!

The University of Georgia has won 10 women's gymnastics championships, the most of any team.



The University of Oklahoma women's team

Oklahoma wins sixth gymnastics title

From April 13–15, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) women's gymnastics championships were held in Fort Worth, Texas. The University of Oklahoma, the 2022 champions, won their sixth national title in nine years. Maile O'Keefe of the University of Utah won the all-around title.

Eight colleges competed at the meet, and four made the finals: Oklahoma, the University of Florida, the University of Utah, and Louisiana State University. The events in the competition were the beam, vault, uneven bars, and floor.

Oklahoma, the top-ranked team, led at the end of each of the finals' first three rotations. In the last one, Jordan Bowers had a spectacular floor routine that earned a 9.950. It helped her team edge out second-place Florida by .150 points.

The competition was especially memorable for Florida's Trinity Thomas, last year's all-around champion. Despite a recent injury, she scored a perfect 10 on the vault during the team final. It was her 28th 10 of her college career and puts her in a three-way tie for the most in NCAA history.

Other gymnasts also earned perfect scores. In the all-around, former Olympian Jordan Chiles of the University of California, Los Angeles, who was predicted to win the title, finished her rotations with a 10 on the bars. O'Keefe, however, then earned a 10 on the beam to take the top spot.

The NCAA men's championships were held on April 14 and 15 in University Park, Pennsylvania. Stanford University won its fourth straight title, and Fred Richard of the University of Michigan was named the all-around champion.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Mark McCarroll**

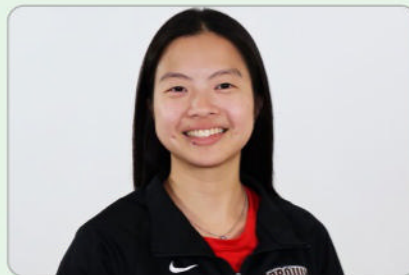
Team: **Creative Arts and Sports (C.A.S.) basketball**

"Basketball is about IQ, and Mark has a big brain about basketball. Every move he does, he completes it so smoothly. He pushes you like you are LeBron James working out. It makes me feel stronger and more motivated to keep going. Something he says is, 'If you don't finish this drill, you have to do 10 push-ups.' Do I want the punishment? No! Am I capable of finishing the drill? Yes! That's how I get better at basketball." Max, 10, New York



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Casey Chan

AGE: 22 SPORT: FENCING
TEAM: BROWN UNIVERSITY

Surprising start When I was around 9, I learned about fencing from a video game that my brothers and I played called Mario and Sonic at the Olympic Games. I'd never seen a sport where you can use a sword before. I found a fencing club near my home, and my participation grew from there.

Big moments I qualified for the NCAA fencing championships my freshman, junior, and senior years. Getting there was a goal since I was little.

Brain game In fencing, you have to merge the physical aspect with the strategy. I love being able to anticipate what's happening next and what my opponent is thinking and plan my actions accordingly.

Staying sharp We practice about 10 to 12 hours a week. We do different types of training. We do a lot of conditioning, running, and weightlifting. We also focus on fencing and practicing bladework and footwork.

Life lessons Fencing is an individual sport, so you can take losses pretty hard. Over time, I've learned how to move past the initial sting and figure out what can be done better. It's been a good learning experience for me, not only in the sport but also in life, where setbacks will always occur.

Wide interests I make time to be involved in other activities. I've joined a singing group for athletes, and I've been writing for some journals and publications. I'd love to be a science journalist.

Future goals I'm planning to enroll in a PhD program in chemistry next year. I hope to continue fencing. Even if I don't compete at the collegiate level, I'd still fence for fun and teach younger people.





DID YOU KNOW?

Judy Blume was named a "Living Legend" by the Library of Congress in 2000.



Kathy Bates, left, and Abby Ryder Fortson in the film

Beloved book becomes film

The new movie *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* is an adaptation of a popular Judy Blume novel about growing up.

Award-winning author Judy Blume's novel *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*, a book about the challenges of growing up and figuring out who you are, has been popular for more than 50 years. For the first time, it has been turned into a film, which arrives in movie theaters on April 28.

The story in the book and the movie is set in the 1970s. It is told from the perspective of 11-year-old Margaret Simon, a sixth grader faced with going to a new school, making new friends, family drama, and most

notably, puberty (when a child's body becomes an adult body). She is also trying to figure out her own religious beliefs. In private, Margaret addresses God with questions about her life.

The novel has been a bestseller for decades, but it is also one of the most banned books in the US. Some people think the book's coverage of puberty is not age-appropriate. Another concern is about the way Christianity is depicted. The film's writer-director Kelly Fremon Craig, a longtime fan of the story, told *The Week Junior* that the movie is faithful to the book.

Margaret is played by Abby Ryder Fortson, who was about the same age as her character during filming. She told *The Week Junior* she first read the novel when she was auditioning for the movie. Afterward, she recalled, "I said to my dad, 'How did someone write a book about this experience and make it so honest and so true?' I loved the book so much."

Craig wants the film to make audiences laugh and for them to see themselves in Margaret and her friends. "There's something about watching someone else do the embarrassing things that you do that's really funny—and also a great relief that you're not the only one," she said.

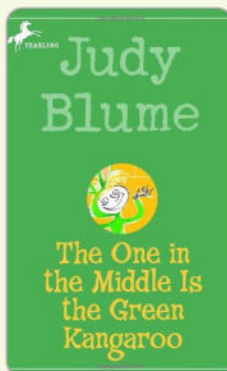


Judy Blume

3 facts about Judy Blume

Starting out

Judy Blume, age 85, grew up loving stories. At college, she got a teaching degree. Her first book, *The One in the Middle Is the Green Kangaroo*, was published in 1969. She went on to write 28 more.



State honors

The author was raised in New Jersey, and many of her books are set in the state. She was inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame in 2010, and a service area along a New Jersey parkway was named after her last May.



Shop owner

Blume and her husband, George Cooper, co-founded a nonprofit bookstore in Key West, Florida. Books & Books at the Studios of Key West opened in 2016. It is housed in a building dedicated to art, creativity, and community.



WOW!

The largest elephant on record was an adult male African savanna elephant. He was about 13 feet tall and weighed 24,000 pounds.



Asian elephants in *Secrets of Elephants*

Close look at the lives of elephants

National Geographic has a new four-part documentary series that provides a fresh look at some of the world's most remarkable animals. *Secrets of Elephants*, featuring Kenyan wildlife conservationist and elephant expert Paula Kahumbu, includes never-before-seen footage and highlights the environmental threats the creatures face. It premieres at 9 pm ET on April 21 on the National Geographic channel. It will stream on Disney+ the next day.

Each episode of the show is set in a different region, including the rainforests of Congo, home to the elusive African forest elephant.

Viewers will also see how urban landscapes in Asia are closing in on elephant habitats. "The series gives us a new reason to care about elephants," Kahumbu told *The Week Junior*.

To get up-close footage of the animals, the film crew made their own drones and connected

them to high-tech cameras. They also placed cameras in spots to film elephants as they walked by. Kahumbu said the series makes viewers feel like they are in the wild with the animals. She joined the crew and scientists in the field to help interpret elephant behavior.

She described elephants as funny, compassionate, and problem solvers.

Kahumbu said that because of poaching (illegal hunting), elephants are facing a major crisis.

One goal of the series is to inform viewers about the importance of protecting the animals. She believes *Secrets of Elephants* will show viewers the similarities between elephants

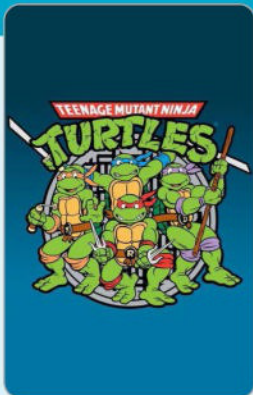
and humans. "We forget that they are conscious, family-oriented animals that talk to each other," she said. "I hope people feel that connection with elephants to such a degree that they say, 'What can I do?' and 'How can I help?'"



Paula Kahumbu



READER RECOMMENDS



Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (Apple TV, YouTube)

"This animated cartoon series, which began in 1987, is based on an action-packed comic book series by Kevin Eastman and Peter Laird. The show focuses on four mutated turtles—Leonardo, Donatello, Raphael, and Michelangelo—who are human-like. They have been trained by their sensei, Splinter, in the art of ninjutsu. With the help of their human friend, April O'Neil, the boys fight the Foot Clan and their leader, Shredder. I love this cartoon—it is hilarious and reminds me of what life was like in the '80s." Reza, 10, California

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



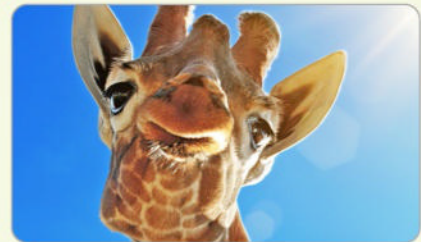
Rugrats (Paramount+)

This animated series, a reboot of a popular show from the 1990s, follows the adventures of Tommy Pickles and his best pals Chuckie, Angelica, Susie, Phil, and Lil. In season two, they will cross frozen tundras, find ancient treasures, and meet Tommy's baby brother, Dil.



Rennervations (Disney+)

Actor Jeremy Renner, who plays Hawkeye in some of the Marvel films, helps communities around the world in this reality series. He and a team of experts renovate large vehicles and repurpose them into incredible things such as a mobile water center and a traveling music bus.



Big Beasts (Apple TV+)

This new nature series visits some of the world's largest animals in their natural habitats. You'll learn about giraffes in the African savanna, tigers in India, brown bears in the Rocky Mountains of the US, gray whales migrating in the ocean, and more.



FUN FACT

In 2014, government employees in Denmark re-created their entire country in Minecraft.



Minecraft Legends

Go on a Minecraft adventure

Minecraft Legends is a new action strategy game. It is out now for the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation platforms, Xbox systems, and PC.

Legends is the fourth spin-off game in the hit Minecraft franchise. Instead of a sandbox game that allows players to build anything they want, wherever they want, Minecraft Legends is a story-driven adventure set in the franchise's Overworld. The land has been invaded by piglins from the Nether, and you play as the hero, a multi-talented warrior, general, and architect. Your mission is to send the piglins back home before they corrupt and destroy your world.

The game starts at a home base where the hero receives special items. Among them are the Flame of Creation, which is essential to building spawners and bringing creatures and allies

to life. The Legendary Lute attracts creatures called allays, which help you build structures and collect key items. It also commands the spawners to defend a territory. One of the most important items is the Banner of Courage. You need it to lead armies in battles in the vast, ever-changing Overworld.

As in the original Minecraft, the map of the land is computer-generated and offers surprises and collectibles, such as treasure chests. You will travel through different environments called biomes to collect resources you can use to create bigger buildings, which then unlock new items and weapons.

The piglins don't need to be your only enemy. Minecraft Legends also has a multiplayer mode that allows up to four players to compete in building and battling until one side wins.



PODCAST OF THE WEEK

GAME ON!

Audible

Basketball star Steph Curry's production company and the studio behind the *Story Pirates* podcast helped create this fun new show. Each episode covers a single topic, such as new types of sports or signature moves of athletes. Expect interviews with special guests and lots of wackiness.



APP OF THE WEEK



MARVEL STRIKE FORCE: SQUAD RPG

Apple App Store, Google Play

In this role-playing game, heroes and villains from the Marvel Universe work together to defend the Earth. You'll create five-person squads, and a trick to winning is having the best combination of fighters to take down the enemies.

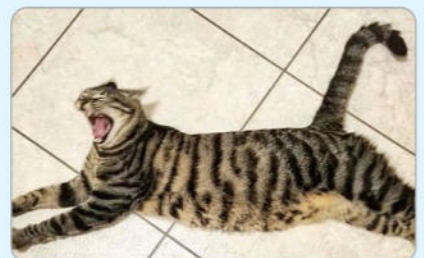


VIDEO OF THE WEEK

GONZO ISACAT

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Gonzo

Ever wonder what the world looks like from a cat's perspective? Gonzo is a cat who wears a camera attached to his collar, and his owners post videos of what he sees and does. In this clip, you'll get a look at how he interacts with a cat named Fish and a squirrel in the yard.





Book club



BOOK OF THE WEEK

Lo & Behold

By Wendy Mass, illustrated by Gabi Mendez, colors by Cai Tse

(Random House)

Addie and her parents were a happy family until her mom got hurt in an accident. For the past year, Addie has lived with her dad. When he gets assigned to work on a virtual reality project for a university across the country, they must move there for six weeks. Addie expects to be lonely, but she soon meets Mateo, the son of one of her dad's co-workers. They test some of the virtual reality games being developed, and Addie likes being in the virtual world as an escape from her problems. At a hospital where Mateo volunteers, the friends come up with an idea to use virtual reality to help patients. Will they be able to pull it off? Although parts of this graphic novel are sad, its conclusion is hopeful. The easy-to-follow comic panels contain various styles of art. *Ages 10–14*



ASK THE AUTHOR

Wendy Mass

We spoke to the author of *Lo & Behold*.

What do you like about virtual reality?

I love being transported and immersed in an environment. It can feel like you've had a little vacation.

Where do you visit using virtual reality?

I like going to fantasy worlds that we can't go to in real life.

Is Addie based on anyone you know?

Not really. I like to create characters from the ground

up. I interview an imaginary character before I start writing the story, and that's when the character comes to life.

What is your inspiration for writing?

A famous author once said that "writers write the books they wish they could read." And I think that's true.

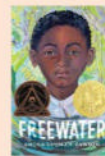
Do you have any hobbies?

Yes! I like to go geocaching and I like to go camping, often at national parks. My favorite national park is Bryce Canyon.



4 books that earned high honors in 2023

Freewater won the Newbery Medal, and the others are Newbery Honor books.



Freewater

By Amina Luqman-Dawson
(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)
Homer and his sister flee a plantation, escaping a life of

slavery. After crossing dangerous swampland, they reach Freewater, a settlement for formerly enslaved people. But their mom is still at the plantation. Homer sets out to rescue her. Will they all be together again? *Ages 10–14*

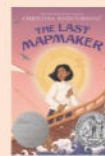


Iveliz Explains It All

By Andrea Beatriz Arango,
illustrated by Alyssa Bermudez

(Random House Books for Young Readers)

In this story, which is told in verse, Iveliz keeps a journal and writes about her mental health struggles. She is hoping that seventh grade will be better than the previous year. But conflicts with some people in her life are getting in the way of a fresh start. *Ages 12 and up*



The Last Mapmaker

By Christina Soontornvat
(Candlewick)

The main character in this fantasy adventure, Sai, can perfectly copy anyone's handwriting. Her talent wins her a job on a royal boat that may be heading to a fabled land. Sai holds secrets about her past, and she discovers that she's not the only one hiding something. This story has an epic ending. *Ages 8–12*



Maizy Chen's Last Chance

By Lisa Yee
(Random House Books for Young Readers)

The Golden Palace restaurant in Minnesota has been in Maizy's family for years. When her grandfather gets sick, she and her mom travel from their home in Los Angeles to help at the restaurant. Maizy must navigate being the only child of color in the town. She also tries to solve family mysteries. *Ages 8–12*

WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away five copies of *Lo & Behold*.

For a chance to win, send your name and address to contests@theweekjunior.com with *Lo & Behold* in the subject line. Enter by midnight on May 12. See theweekjunior.com/terms for complete rules.



READER RECOMMENDS

A Tale Dark & Grimm By Adam Gidwitz

"The narrators, who are ravens, tell this strange tale of Hansel and Gretel. After running away from their kingdom, they go on many adventures, including being lured into a house made of candy. They go back to the kingdom and fight a dragon, only to realize something they should have known before. This book is a little scary, so I recommend it for ages 10 and up." Zaharoula, 12, New York

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.





How to...



Host a clothing swap

Trading clothes and accessories with friends is fun—and good for the planet.

You might have clothes you no longer wear, and your friends probably do too. One way to clear out your closets: Trade clothes at a clothing swap party, where friends or family meet up to exchange clothes and accessories (like necklaces and shoes) they no longer wear. Everyone gets to update their wardrobe for free, and the environment wins, too, because clothes are kept out of landfills. Here's how to plan a swap.

Save the date

Talk to a family member about hosting a clothing swap party, and pick the date and number of people you want to invite. You could plan to host the event outside on a nice day or have it in your home, or look into reserving a room at your local library or recreation center. Reach out to the friends or family members you want to invite at least two weeks before the swap so they have time to gather items to bring.

Give guests guidelines

In order for the swap to be a success, everyone should bring a similar number of items. For example, you could ask every guest to bring at least five items but no more than 10. This will ensure there's enough stuff to choose from but not so much that you end up with a lot of extras. In general, guests should be able to take home as many items as they bring to the swap. Encourage

guests to bring items that are in good shape and clean, and remind them to bring their own tote bag to take home the items they want. Make a poster to hang at the event reminding everyone of the guidelines.

Go through your own closet

Take some time to gather your own items to bring to the swap. Grab a large bag or box, go through your clothes and accessories, and pick out what you'd like to give away. You could also make a pile of "maybe" items and go through them a day or two

before the clothing swap to decide if you're really ready to part with them.

Once you've settled on your final pieces to swap, fold or hang them nicely.

Set up shop

On the day of the swap, ask a friend to help you get ready. Designate tables where people can lay out their items when they arrive. If you have a portable hanging rack, you could also set that up with some hangers. Another option, especially if you're doing the swap party outside, is to lay down picnic blankets where guests can display items. If you have a full-length mirror, set it up for the day, and establish a spot for people to try on items, like a nearby bathroom. If you'd like, you could provide snacks and drinks, or ask everyone to bring something to share. Once all your guests have arrived, let the swapping begin!



Put swap guidelines on a poster.

4 creative ways to upcycle clothing

Give new life to your old clothes with these ideas.

Make rags

If you have stained or torn clothes, cut them into squares. Use them as rags for dusting surfaces, to dry dishes, or as a substitute for paper towels.



Add some fun flair

If you have an item of clothing that fits well but you're tired

of it, add your own style to it. You can use patches or craft supplies, such as glue-on jewels, to give it a fresh look.



Wrap a gift

Use fabric instead of wrapping paper to wrap a gift.

For example, take an old scarf, wrap the gift in it, and knot it in the center.



Create a quilt

Do you have T-shirts from trips or events that you've outgrown? You



can hang on to those memories by making a T-shirt quilt. Using fabric scissors, cut the shirts into large squares of equal size, then ask an adult to help you sew the squares together.

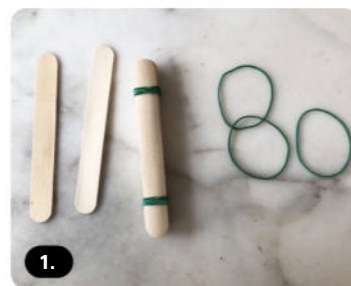


DID YOU KNOW?

Ancient Greek and Roman soldiers used catapults to launch weapons during battles.



WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using a hot glue gun.



Craft a working catapult

What you need

- 10 wide craft sticks (also called tongue depressors)
- 5 rubber bands
- Recycled plastic bottle cap
- Hot glue and gun
- Marshmallow or pom-pom

Instructions

1. Stack eight of the craft sticks on top of one another. Wrap a rubber band around the stack of sticks about 1/2 inch from one end to secure them together. Then repeat with another rubber band about 1/2 inch from the other end.
2. Take the two remaining craft sticks and place one underneath the stack and one on top to make a cross-like shape (see photo). Use two rubber bands, diagonally over the middle, to hold these two craft sticks in place.
3. Slide the top and bottom sticks so one end sticks out about 2 inches. Wrap a rubber band around these two shorter ends to hold them in place.
4. You should now have one end of the top craft stick raised diagonally and be able to push it down and then let go to release. With an adult's help, hot glue the cap on the end of this craft stick.
5. Place a marshmallow or a pom-pom on the cap, press it down, and let go to watch it soar!



ECO TIP
OF THE WEEK

GROW SOME NATIVE PLANTS

A great way to help your local environment is to grow plants that are found naturally in your area. Known as native plants, they have adapted to grow in the soil conditions, temperature, and amount of rainfall in your geographical region. This makes them easier for people to grow, whether in a garden or outdoor pots, and they're environmentally friendly because they will require less extra water and fertilizer to thrive. Native plants, which can include ferns, shrubs, and wildflowers, are also good for your area's ecosystem because local birds and pollinators rely on them to survive. If you'd like ideas of what to grow, check out audubon.org/native-plants.



Wildflowers are one type of native plant.



Puzzles



Word search

Can you find all these tools in the grid? They are hidden horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and can be forward or backward. When you're done, read the remaining letters to get a bonus message.

BOLT	DUCT TAPE	HAMMER	LATHE	PLIERS	SHEARS
CHISEL	FILE	HEX NUT	LEVEL	RASP	SOLDERING IRON
CLAMP	GLUE GUN	HOOK	MALLET	RULER	VICE
DRILL	HACKSAW	JIGSAW	NAIL	SANDER	WIRE
		KNIFE	PLANE	SCREWDRIVER	WRENCH

T P M A L C R
R L W I A D M W S O L D E R I N G I R O N L I E
A A T A I A A O C H I S E L N E U A E L S
N S B L U T S I E P A T T C U D L L V R I
E K P L H D E G L R W M H E X N U T E S V
C I E C N L J I A I P M A N A U I L R S
A T T N U L E F J R N O E S S L C R E
H L R E V I R D W E R C S R P
W O S G R S R A E H S O
R N B O U A W I D L
E F I N K S



OFF SIDES

Make three different five-letter words by using the letters given to fill in the blanks.

B C D E L R

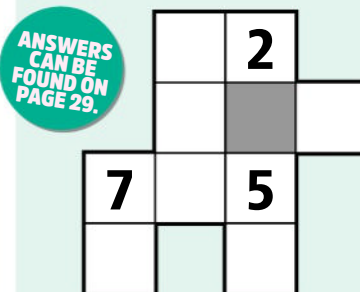
AGE

AGE

AGE

Out of order

The numbers 1 to 9 can fit, one per square, so that no two consecutive numbers are in squares that touch in any way, even at a corner. Use the numbers already given to figure out where the rest of the numbers go.



FILL IN THE BLANKS

Fill in the blanks in each sentence with words that rhyme, like OUR and POWER. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

- If I'd known that my leftover pizza would be _____ solid when I was ready to eat it, I would've _____ to store it in the fridge instead.
- My dad's _____ address starts with MS, the initials of his first and middle names, so lots of people respond "Dear Ms. Jones," assuming he is _____.
- Our tour _____ told us that even if we _____ our hardest, we wouldn't be able to paddle our canoe against such a strong _____.

Spot the difference

These two pictures of dairy cows appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





Anybody bring a beach ball?

A great day for good dogs

It was a day at the beach for fluffy dogs on April 1 as more than 1,200 corgis and their owners met up for Corgi Beach Day in Huntington Beach, California. The twice-yearly festival features a cardigan sweater contest, musical chairs, a limbo competition, and an attempt to set a world record for the most corgis in carriers. "Honorary corgis" from other breeds are welcome at the event, too. Corgi Beach Day isn't just fun and games, though—some of the proceeds are donated to a dog rescue organization.



Flying high in Dubai

Pilot touches down on tiny target

Airport runways can be more than a mile long, but Luke Czeplia needed only 88 feet when he landed his plane on the top of a sky-high hotel in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates. To land on the hotel's helipad, which is about the size of a tennis court, Czeplia practiced the technique 650 times over the past two years. A successful landing required the perfect amount of wind, and the plane needed to be as light as possible, about 936 pounds. After he pulled off the tricky task, Czeplia said, "I feel awesome."



The metal Minions

Mysterious Minion appearances

Scrap-metal sculptures of the Minions (characters from the film *Despicable Me*) keep popping up around the small Australian town of Warrack. Some of the sculptures are designed as works of art, but others can be used as mailboxes. In the town of 70 residents, no one knows who is responsible. Cameras caught two people setting up a Minion, but one of the culprits was wearing a Santa Claus costume and the other was unclear in the footage. Their identities remain unknown. It's a "good fun mystery," said one resident.

Real or fake?



Would you eat mammoth meat?

Mmm...mammoth meatballs

Scientists believe they have found the future of food—but it lies in the distant past. The company Vow Food has grown a meatball using DNA (a chemical that tells living things how to develop) from woolly mammoths. Vow hopes that lab-grown mammoth meat will be better for the environment than using meat from farm animals. However, a scientist told *The Guardian* newspaper that no one has tried eating the meatball yet because "we have no idea how our immune system would react when we eat it." What do you think? Is this real or a woolly whopper?*

*Real! Scientists mixed mammoth DNA with elephant DNA to make these unusual meatballs. Researchers have already investigated the possibility of growing meat from other DNA, including from alpacas, kangaroos, and peacocks.



Your turn

Editor's note



When I was in middle school, I read the Judy Blume novel *Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret*. To me, and to millions of others who have read it over the past 50 years, there was something very special about the story. Growing up isn't always easy, and I felt the author really understood that. I've held onto that sense of appreciation and admiration for the book (and for Judy Blume!) ever since. I was thrilled when I heard the novel was being made into a movie, and I can't wait to see it! Brielle, our associate editor who wrote the story on page 20, has already seen it—and she gives it five stars. “The film is brilliant at capturing the uncertainty of figuring out who you want to be,” she told me. “I loved Margaret’s openness—she’s very honest about what she’s experiencing.” If you read the book, see the film, or both, we’d love to hear what you think. Write to us at hello@theweekjunior.com.

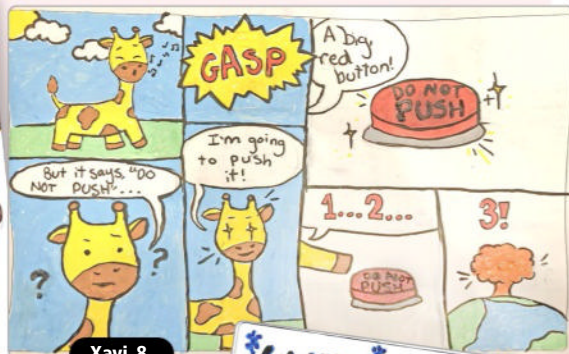
Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief

YOUR COMICS

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a comic! If you would like to create one to send to us, get the form at kids.theweekjunior.com/activities.



Xavi, 8,
Maryland



Sofia, 10,
New Jersey



Johnny, 9,
New Jersey



Cleo, 12,
Arizona



Ben, 10,
Maryland



Eleanora,
10, Ohio



CHARITY OF THE WEEK



Give Kids the World Village

This organization's goal is to spread joy to children who are being treated for serious illnesses. It covers the expenses for children and their families to take a vacation at its resort in Florida. The resort has a wheelchair-accessible pool, ponies, and other attractions and events, like a talent show. More than 187,000 families from 76 countries have enjoyed the resort. Find out more at gktw.org.



THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Your turn



YOUR PHOTOS

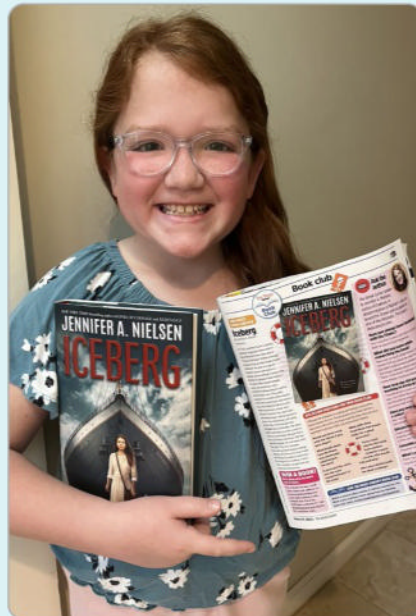
We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures of you in them! Have an adult email them to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you would like to us to know about what you're doing in the photo.



"We love camping and reading by the campfire. When we were done playing in the creek, we sat by the fire and read *The Week Junior* together. Our favorite parts are the puzzles and Photos of the Week." **Amelia, 10, Izzy, 8, and, Oliver, 5, Indiana**

"We love reading *The Week Junior*! We especially enjoyed the recipe for the cheesy onion pasta in the April 7 issue. It turned our Sunday dinner into a gourmet experience. Thank you!"

Aisha, 11, and Ranvir, 8, Illinois



"I'm loving the book *Iceberg*. Thank you for the recommendation." **Isla, 9, California**



Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Ms. Habib**

School: **The Nightingale-Bamford School**

"Ms. Habib makes science come to life! She comes up with creative experiments, like the time we pretended we were viruses. We also got to make slime! The activities are complex, and she takes time to make sure everyone understands them. My grandfather was a scientist, and thanks to Ms. Habib, I might want to be one too!"

Margaux, 11, New York

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week! Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Word search

Unused letters: Traditional builders in Japan use no screws or nails.

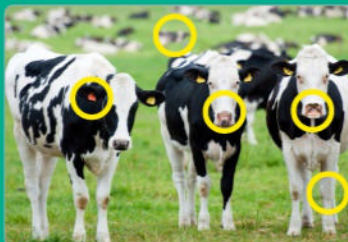
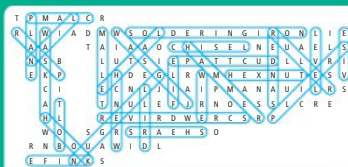
Off sides

bagel
caged
eager

Fill in the blanks

1. frozen, chosen
2. email, female
3. guide, tried, tide

6	2	
9		8
7	1	5
4		3



Quiz answers (from page 30)

- 1** c) Banner of Courage **2** True **3** Ghana **4** False. Most dogs prefer their right front paw.
5 Judy Blume **6** a) Ireland **7** True **8** c) Oklahoma **9** *Stay Tuned* **10** b) Sheep **11** False. It simulates life on Mars. **12** b) Freewater **13** True **14** a) Buddhism **15** Corgi Beach Day

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz of the week

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 In the video game *Minecraft Legends*, which item is needed to lead armies?

- a) Flame of Creation b) Legendary Lute
c) Banner of Courage

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 True or false? A type of dinosaur called a sauropod is the largest land animal known to have existed.

True ☐ False ☐

3 Which African country recently became the first to approve the R21 vaccine for malaria?

4 True or false? Most dogs prefer to use their left front paw over their right.

True ☐ False ☐

5 Who wrote the book *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*?

6 The first person to be processed at the immigration station on Ellis Island came from what country?

- a) Ireland b) Italy c) Spain

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

7 True or false? A "super bloom" of flowers in California is large and colorful enough to be seen from space.

True ☐ False ☐

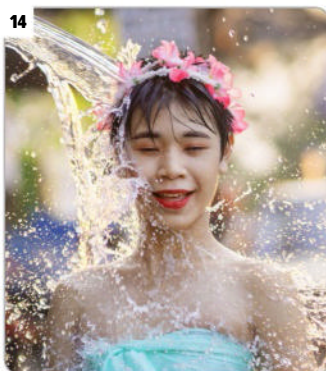
8 A college from which state won the NCAA women's gymnastics national championship?

- a) Florida b) Utah c) Oklahoma

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐



ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.



9 What is reporter Maya Eaglin's youth-focused news show for NBC called?

10 Experts in Italy have turned to what animal to protect the ancient ruins of the city of Pompeii?

- a) Goats b) Sheep c) Cows

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

11 True or false? NASA recently unveiled an artificial habitat that simulates life on the Moon.

True ☐ False ☐

12 Which children's book won the 2023 Newbery Medal?

- a) *Iveliz Explains It All*

- b) *Freewater*

- c) *The Last Mapmaker*

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

13 True or false? The underside of a Eurasian woodcock's tail has the whitest feathers of any bird.

True ☐ False ☐

14 Thailand's Songkran Water Festival is rooted in what religion?

- a) Buddhism b) Hinduism c) Taoism

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

15 More than 1,200 dogs gathered in Huntington Beach, California, for what special day?

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SCAN TO
ORDER





**SEASONAL
SIGHT**

Emerging from bulb-like structures, crocuses are perennial flowering plants that tend to be one of the first to bloom in spring.